The Public Health Information Network and Early Detection

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May 13th, 2003

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Early Detection Principles

1. Syndrome data and the many new electronic data sources need to be rigorously evaluated

2. Early detection data based on the diagnostic skills of trained clinical personnel (e.g. diagnoses from ambulatory care settings) should be prioritized

3. Many of #2 are useful for public health in general and the reporting processes should support dual use

4. Strive to minimize reporting burden - manual entry of syndrome data has limited roles
    - prospectively around major events
    - retrospectively after major occurrences

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Early Detection Principles

- Deliver data to support comparative analysis and interpretation (vs. just alerts)

- Provide multiple data sources in a coordinated presentation to facilitate signal evaluation and minimize user burden

- When an alert or signal is found, support public health investigation through supplemental electronic queries for information

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National Push for Bio-Protection

The President's Office has advanced initiatives to enhance national protection from bioterrorism:

BioShield – rapid development of new vaccines and therapeutics against biological threats

BioWatch – deployment of environmental air samplers in key locations to detect releases of certain biological agents

BioSense - proposal, being discussed with Health and Human Services, to enhance capability to rapidly detect bioterrorism by accessing and analyzing health data for bioterrorism indicators

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National Data Sources

City Recipients

Health Activities Profiles

National Labs "Test Requests"

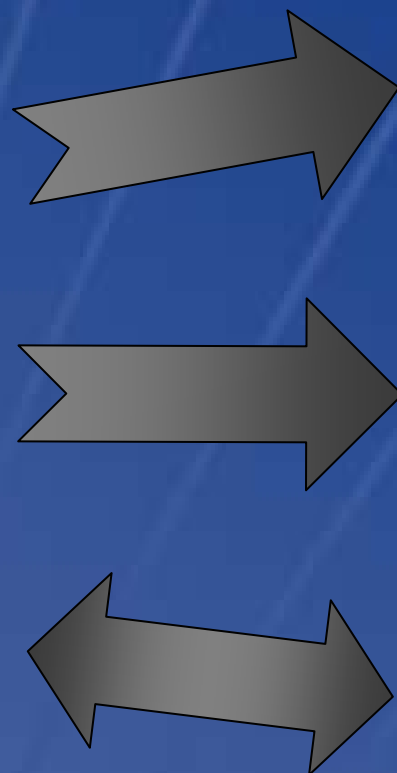DoD and VA sentinel clinical data

Nurse Call Line Data

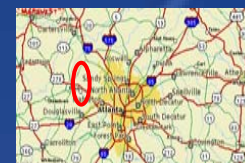Over the Counter Drug Sales

Lab Response Network and BioWatch

Clinical Information Systems

Outbreak Detection Alerting Capabilities

Metropolitan Surveillance and Response Systems

Data for Local Investigation and Detection

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